

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ed Radlo on Friday, November 6, 2009.

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please **cancel** the following claims: 9-10, 22-23, 27

Please **amend** the following claims: 1, 8, 18-19, 21, 25

1. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling transmission of data packets through an information network, the information network having a plurality of user workstations communicatively coupled to a network access point (NAP), said system comprising:

- a Regional Transaction Processor (RTP); and
- a data Enabling Device (DED), said DED being disposed at the NAP and communicatively coupled to the RTP, said DED containing content match information and operable to:
  - inspect at least content portions of data packets, each data packet comprising a content portion, a header, and a trailer,
  - transiting the NAP;

forward an inspected data packet when information within the  
content portion of a data packet is not substantially similar to  
content match information; and  
when information within the content portion of an inspected data  
packet is substantially similar to content match information,  
temporarily store the inspected data packet, initiate issuance  
of a DED message to a recipient user workstation, and  
invoke the RTP to process a transaction; wherein:  
the RTP transmits an RTP message to the DED authorizing forwarding of the  
data packet only when a result of the transaction indicates that forwarding  
is appropriate;  
the system further comprises a plurality of DED's, at least one intermediate DED  
operable to forward the DED message to a DED closest, within the  
information network, to the recipient user workstation;  
the plurality of DED's are operable to communicate with each other to  
prevent transmitting more than one DED message for the same data  
packet within the information network;  
processing a transaction based on a user response to the DED message;  
and  
the RTP transmits one of a Release Content message and a  
Cease Content message to the DED, based on the result of the  
transaction.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 7 wherein:

a first NAP includes a first DED for generating a DED message; and

~~the system comprises at least one intermediate DED operable to forward the DED message to a DED closest, within the information network, to the recipient user workstation.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling transmission of data packets through an information network, each data packet comprising a content portion, a header, and a trailer, the information network having a plurality of user workstations communicatively coupled to a network access point (NAP), said method comprising:

inspecting at least [[the]] content portions of data packets transiting the NAP with a data Enabling Device (DED), said DED being disposed at the NAP and communicatively coupled to a Regional Transaction Processor (RTP), said DED containing content match information;

forwarding an inspected data packet when information within the content portion of the inspected data packet is not substantially similar to content match information; and

when information within the content portion of an inspected data packet is substantially similar to content match information, temporarily storing the

Art Unit: 2457

inspected data packet, issuing a ~~prompt~~ DED message to a recipient user workstation, and invoking the RTP to process a transaction; wherein:  
the information network comprises a plurality of DED's, and the method further comprises:  
at least one intermediate DED operable to forward the DED message to a DED closest, within the information network, to the recipient user workstation;  
transmitting a message among the plurality of DED's to prevent transmitting  
more than one DED message for the same data packet;  
processing the transaction based on a user response to the DED message;  
and  
transmitting a Release Content or Cease Content message to the DED based on  
whether content was authorized to be downloaded to the workstation as part of the transaction.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the DED message is based on control information associated with the content match information.

Art Unit: 2457

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising processing a transaction based on a response to the DED message received from the recipient user workstation.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising suspending transmission of a data packet through the information network until a user response to the DED message is received.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising program instructions to implement the method of claim 18.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BARBARA N. BURGESS whose telephone number is (571)272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2457

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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November 6, 2008

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